



# CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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## A WANDERER ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD A Scot Who Grew His Own Pigtail

FOR more than fifty years George Hunter, an Aberdeen Scot, gave his life to the service of others on the roof of the world in Sinkiang, formerly known as Chinese Turkestan. As a young man of 26, in 1889, he left Scotland and set out on the long trek toward the frontier where it meets Russia. At Urumtsi, far from Western ways and contact with the outside world, he built himself a rough house and there he was found many years later by the missionary travellers Mildred Cable and Francesca French. They have now told his selfless story.

Growing his own pigtail in the days when Chinese wore them, and dressing in a long, simple blue Chinese gown, George Hunter lived in a bare-boarded house and slept in a rough home-made bed. He had one Mongol servant, who provided the same meal every day for fifty years—boiled mutton and rice! At one stretch Hunter lived for twelve years without seeing anyone from the outside world! His friends were the Mongol camel-drivers, the Qazaq farmers, the Sarter merchants who travelled through the deserts of Turkestan and Mongolia selling their bricks of tea, collecting animal skins, and carrying wool for a thousand miles to Kansu for weaving into blankets.

### In His Chinese Cart

Choosing Urumtsi as his centre, George Hunter set out to translate the Scriptures into the languages spoken along the trade routes which spanned the high plateau. Then, in his little Chinese cart with a pair of horses, Hunter set out to meet the people. "To the north," he wrote, "are barren mountains, while to the south is forest land with long grass and bushes... the snowbound mountains and glaciers sometimes rise to 24,000 feet, while some of the valleys and plains sink below sea-level. The deserts are cold in winter, but burning hot in summer. The many towns and villages stand in areas of rich land where grain, fruit, and vegetables are grown in abundance, but they are divided by jungles, forests, and stretches of arid land."

Across the shifting sands of the country to the edge of the great Gobi Desert Hunter pushed his way under the hot sun. Meeting a robber in a mountain gorge Hunter marched steadily on, unperturbed but with a gripping fear at his heart. The mounted robber watched him from a height and called his gang to shadow Hunter down the track. But something in Hunter's stride and bearing showed that, in spite of his dress, he was different. Like Livingstone, he had a firm-footed gait which carried him on in his dedicated task.

He schooled himself to live in isolation, but liked nothing better than to come to a wayside pool where the camel-men had congregated. There he would squat while the furry-hatted drivers came up to get a copy of the Scriptures in their own language. Sometimes he would ask for milk in return, or a piece of bread, or a meal of mutton and rice, or a brick of tea.

### A Desert Meeting

No portrait of this lonely, dedicated spirit is more precious than the one which Mildred Cable and Francesca French paint in George Hunter: Apostle of Turkestan (Lutterworth Press, 7s 6d) of how Hunter came out to meet them across the Gobi Desert. News had travelled by camel-postmen that three ladies were travelling across the Gobi Desert to see him. No woman had ever been in his house, so he had a special one built for his visitors, and then set off in his

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## OUT FOR A RUN



These three Irish Wolfhound puppies and their mother make quite a handful when taken out for exercise at Kenley, Surrey

## THIS WOBBLING EARTH

### We Are Just Emerging From An Ice Age

THAT we are just emerging from the last glacial epoch, or Ice Age, is the opinion of a Yugoslav geophysicist named Milankovitch. He has prepared a chart showing the glacial epochs of the past and of the future.

Basing his observations on the motion of the Earth, his theories agree remarkably well with the evidence of geologists. Now, the earth on its journey round the Sun wobbles a little like a spinning top, a complete wobble taking 25,800 years. The net result is that the Earth's equatorial region shifts up and down, and is not constant in the position it occupies today.

### Unwanted Snow

There is also an eccentricity in the Earth's orbit, which makes it complete more or less of an ellipse than at present, but this need not concern us here, save that it leads to unusually cool summers.

However cold the winter may be, it does not add appreciably to the snowfall, because once the temperature falls to 32 degrees Fahrenheit any precipitation will take the form of snow. But unusually cool summers do not melt the previous winter's snows, which at first accumulate on the mountains and then form glaciers that move down to the plains. In this way whole continents may be overrun by ice.

According to Milankovitch, the last glacial epoch was at its worst about 20,000 years ago. Then nearly the whole of Europe, together with North America and Canada, were under an icecap one or two miles thick. The climate was Arctic in character, so that the Atlantic was frozen down to the Bay of Biscay.

Then, as the Earth gradually righted itself in its spinning the ice melted and retreated northwards.

But the Earth has only completed half its swing. The equatorial region will continue to move northwards at a rate of a quarter of a mile a year, with the ice gradually retreating, until in A.D. 20,000 the North Pole will have a tropical climate.

### Warming Up

The climate of Europe and North America will undergo a gradual warming up during the next few thousand years. For example, Toronto in A.D. 5000 will have a climate like that of New York, and like Miami in A.D. 15,000.

After a genial "summer" of about 30,000 years' duration the spinning Earth will begin to tilt in the opposite direction, the weather will gradually grow colder again, until in A.D. 90,000 ice will once more cover the northern hemisphere. At the same time the snows of Antarctica will melt and the now frozen lands will flourish with luxuriant vegetation. Altogether, the geophysicist maps out four major glacial epochs in the past 500,000 years, and promises as many for the future.

## A Square Meal For Sixpence

A VARIED yet plentiful meal for 6d or 7d sounds like Great-Grand-Dad talking about his boyhood experiences. Where indeed can such a meal be obtained today?

The answer is in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia—but even there you have to have a dusky skin to get it.

In Bulawayo the Municipal Authorities have prepared a scheme for supplying to the native worker a hot cooked meal consisting of soup, meat, fresh vegetables, mealie-rice, bread, and tea—all for 6d or 7d. Coupons will be issued to employers, who will give them to natives to be exchanged for a meal.

Strangely enough, such meals at extraordinarily low prices have

been available for natives since the beginning of this year—but the natives have been turning up their noses at them. It is not the quality of the food they object to, but many of them prefer to buy a few pennyworth of mealie-meal and take it home for their wives to cook. Alternatively, they find a crowded fly-ridden native eating-house more "matey" than a clean, orderly Municipal hall where wholesome food hygienically cooked can be obtained.

It is now hoped that the new coupon scheme and education, plus the natives' delight in a bargain, will bring our African friends to realise that it is the food that matters, and not where they eat it.

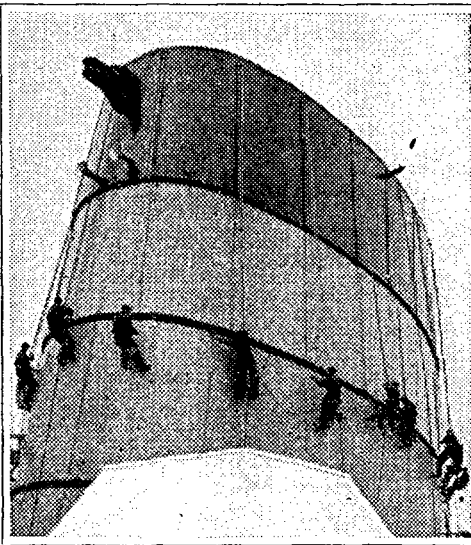
## ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

Continued from column 2

cart to meet them three days' journey away. The authors describe their meeting in the wild loneliness of the desert. Hunter was indistinguishable from a travelling merchant, and yet his natural Scottish courtesy marked all his movements. Before they entered Urumtsi Hunter went ahead and at the doorway of his house stood in his Scottish black suit with turned-down collar and black tie—a suit he had not worn for years. For three months the authors lived in Urumtsi and saw George Hunter at work and admired the influence he had on the wandering people.

## WET PAINT

Unlike most people these Clydebank men start at the top and work their way to the bottom. They are painting the huge funnel of the 34,000-ton Caronia, the largest passenger liner to be built since the war. The Caronia, which was launched and named by Princess Elizabeth in October 1947, will have cost between three and four million pounds when she is completed. She will make her maiden transatlantic voyage early in the new year with 990 passengers.





## WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CHINA?

THE victorious advance of the Communist Armies in northern China and the failure of the Nationalist Government either to hold these armies back or to ease the economic situation throughout China is causing deep anxiety in every democratic country, especially in America.

The position is indeed grave for the Nationalists, and there seems to be little doubt that faulty generalship is not the only reason for their desperate situation.

For years past the Kuomintang forces have suffered from inefficiency and poor administration. The private soldier, the NCO, and the junior officer have all been underpaid or not paid at all, while generals have lived in luxury. Corruption has been tolerated in Government circles. American aid, both in money and material, has been wasted. Freedom of criticism has been stifled. Inflation and lack of confidence in the Government have resulted in great war weariness of the people, and this is reflected, quite naturally, in the lack of war spirit among the troops.

### Communist Policy

As far as can be judged from reports about the Communists, their policy has been much more clever. They have attracted the vast poverty-stricken peasant population of the areas they have overrun by giving them the ownership of the land they work.

The results of better organisation have been seen in the past few weeks when Communist forces have captured the important industrial town and area of Mukden in Manchuria, and have been sweeping through the Great Wall towards the heart of China proper. Of course the Communists have taken advantage of support which Russian policy has given them; whereas their opponents, the Nationalist Government at Nanking, has failed to make proper use of the American aid.

While it cannot as yet be said that the Nationalist Government has lost the war (Chinese civil wars may go on for decades), there can already be little doubt about the international implications of the conflict in the vast

Chinese theatre. The present civil war in China may be said to be a reflection of the great world struggle going on between the West and East. The tipping of the scales one way or another cannot but have important repercussions in the rest of China. If China becomes a Communist State the effect will be felt at once in Malaya, Indonesia, and possibly India and Pakistan.

The Kuomintang Government realises with what uneasiness such dramatic possibilities are viewed, particularly in the United States. It is for this reason that it has again appealed for more help to the U.S. Department of State. But at the head of the Department stands Mr. Marshall who, as General Marshall, went to China early in 1947 to mediate between the two contesting parties. Although sympathising with the aims of people who wish China to stay non-Communist he had formed a very poor opinion about the Kuomintang Government. They understood that and counted heavily upon a victory in the Presidential elections of the Republicans, who had promised a "new deal for China."

### Appeal to America

These hopes were disappointed. But the situation became so urgent that the Chinese Government was forced to appeal to Mr. Marshall again, though there can be little doubt that, as things stand, America will be very unwilling to throw in more arms or money only too likely to be wasted.

Nothing short of a thorough reorganisation of the Chinese Government will probably now be regarded as a sufficient guarantee for America.

The Western Powers, too, with their great interests and responsibilities in the Far East, wish to see a reformed Government in China which will serve the true interests of its suffering people.

## Our Duty to the Colonies

IN a recent survey 50 per cent of 2000 people of all classes questioned could not name one British colony, 75 per cent did not know the difference between a Colony and a Dominion, and three per cent even thought the US a British Colony!

However, it is encouraging to note that in the survey young people were found to have the best knowledge.

CN readers have long had a lively interest in the Colonies, and they will welcome a new campaign to make people in Britain—especially children—more aware of the Colonies and their sixty million inhabitants. This campaign is being run by the Colonial Office in co-operation with 24 other important bodies such as the Royal Empire Society, the Overseas League, the British Council, the Central Office of Information, and so on.

The aim is to tell people in a simple way the names of the Colonies, the races who inhabit them, and something about

their products. This will be done largely through schools, youth organisations, the WEA, Women's Institutes, and so on.

A handbook, Britain and the Colonies (Stationery Office, 3d), has been published which states how to obtain lecture services, films, film strips, lantern slides, picture sets, display sets, posters, maps, and so on. Someone, in fact, has dubbed this booklet "threepennyworth of potted Empire."

The best way of finding out about the Colonies, however, is to meet people from them, and some 3000 students, from the Colonies are now in Britain. The booklet advises people wishing to invite colonial students to their homes how to get in touch with them.

This get-to-know-the-Colonies campaign deserves our full support, for thus can we help to ensure the success of the biggest experiment in history, the development of the British Commonwealth.

## Ireland to be a Republic

IRELAND is famous for producing paradoxes; an amusing definition of an "Irish Bull," as they are called, is this: "If you see two cows sitting in a field and one of them is standing up, that one is an Irish bull."

Now Ireland, with the assistance of our Government, has achieved another paradox; citizens of Eire are to be outside and inside the British Commonwealth at the same time!

Under the Irish Parliament's new Republic of Ireland Bill, Eire becomes a Republic, and has no longer any connection whatever with the British Crown. But at the same time Eire does not consider Britain a foreign country, and Irish people living in Britain or travelling here are to have the same privileges as British citizens. Our Government has agreed to this and the Dominion Governments are likely to do the same.

We shall hope that, as Mr. Costello, the Irish Prime Minister, has prophesied, the new conditions will make for even greater friendship between our Irish neighbours and ourselves.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland remains a part of the United Kingdom.

## She Gave the World Mother's Day

IN Philadelphia, not long ago, died an old lady who had given the world a great idea and had spent all her money on striving to have it fittingly carried out. She was Miss Anne Jarvis.

It was in 1907, as a spinster of 43 who had been devoted to her own mother, that she began to work to establish the custom of setting aside one day in the year for honouring mother.

After a long campaign, in which she spent a great deal of her fortune of £25,000, she persuaded the American nation to accept her idea, and in 1914 President Wilson signed a Bill ordaining that the second Sunday in May every year should be a flag holiday and be called Mother's Day.

The idea spread to many other countries. But in the US Mother's Day became commercialised, traders boosted it in a manner which grieved the kindly spinster. For she had conceived Mother's Day as one for quiet devotion and gratitude to mothers for all they do for humanity.

So Miss Jarvis undertook another campaign, and in this she spent all her money without attaining her ideal.

When she died she left only one dollar, but she left the world richer by a beautiful idea.

## BOMBAY CYCLONE

BOMBAY was severely damaged by a cyclonic storm not long ago. The velocity of the wind was 78 m.p.h. and there were one or more gusts of 98 m.p.h.

The power lines of the hydro-electric supply were blown down, plunging the City into darkness. Many trees were blown across the roads and nearly all transport was stopped and food could not be distributed.

Several persons lost their lives and many were injured by falling trees and flying glass, splinters, and tiles, and at sea sailors were lost in vessels that capsized.

## WORLD NEWS REEL

**AID FOR MUSEUMS.** The museums of Australia have offered to help European museums which were damaged in the war and need new exhibits. In particular they will send minerals, and fauna and flora used for instruction purposes. Unesco is asked to submit lists of urgently-needed items to the Australian Government.

The formal presentation of the *Kitty Hawk*, the first plane, to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington will be made on December 17, the 45th anniversary of the Wright brothers' flight.

The Norwegians, chief Antarctic whalers, have rejected an American plan to internationalise regions of the Antarctic south of latitude 60 degrees south.

The US Army Signal Corps recently sent up a balloon, with no one in it, to a record height of 26½ miles. Valuable information for weather forecasts was obtained.

**HAPPY LAND.** Belgium is to end all food rationing and to abolish its Ministry of Food on January 1, 1949.

## HOME NEWS REEL

**ROYAL BIRTHDAY.** The King celebrates his 53rd birthday next week, on December 14.

Edwin Greenslade, the champion miner, who lives at Blaengarw, Glamorgan, has broken his last year's record by cutting and loading more than 1000 tons of coal in two months, an average of about 20 tons a day.

It is claimed by Glaxo Laboratories that they are producing enough streptomycin—a new drug—for Britain's present needs.

A colony of fulmar petrels has established itself on the coast between Sheringham and Weybourne. The birds have not previously nested in Norfolk.

**ANCHOR WEIGHED.** On the Chesil Beach, near Weymouth, tests have been made with a new kind of anchor, designed to prevent warships from dragging their anchors. It weighs 5½ tons, and can withstand a pull of more than eight times its own weight.

During excavations for a new boiler-house for the House of Commons a ninth-century Saxon sword was found. It is 2 feet 9½ inches long, and was unearthed 30 feet below the surface, underneath what was once the bed of the Thames.

**GREENBOARDS.** Kent schools are to have blackboards of green, a colour more restful to the eyes.

## YOUTH NEWS REEL

**CHRISTMAS CHEER.** As their Christmas Good Turn, Scouts of the 19th Southwark Troop have made over a hundred toys for children in the Evelina Hospital, Southwark, and the Church of England Home for Children, Hammersmith. Using their own sweet coupons, and with money raised from the sale of waste paper, they will buy sweets to go with the toys.

The World Friendship Fund of the Boy Scouts of America has given 4000 dollars to the Boy Scouts Association of Finland to print three Scout handbooks in the Finnish language.

**INTERNATIONAL HOUSE.** A recent report on "Our Chalet" at Adelboden, Switzerland, where Guides of many nations meet for

**DANGER SPOTS.** When a motorist entered a suburb of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, at night, not long ago, he had to stop suddenly near a bus terminus to avoid hitting a leopard in the road.

While the *Chicago to Denver* express, already 18 hours late, was slowly following a snow-plough through a blizzard in Kansas, four planes, including a helicopter, circled overhead ready to drop medical supplies if necessary.

**EXCHANGE.** Within the next few weeks 69 British teachers will be sailing to exchange posts with teachers in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Southern Rhodesia.

In Queensland tinned bananas are being prepared for export. Research workers experimented for nearly a year before they found a way of processing bananas. It involves cooking the fruit in syrup.

Unesco have just produced for use in backward countries a film cartoon, *Insects and Disease*, to show the causes of illness.

**SCHOOL CERT.** Out of 10,294 candidates who took the Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate examination last July, 8214 were successful. In the Higher School Certificate examination, 3344 boys and 191 girls passed. There were 1491 failures.

During the university vacations 1000 students will help the income-tax authorities as clerks.

Removing floorboards in an old hotel at Swaffham, Norfolk, electricians brought to light a pair of pattens, or clogs, thought to be about 150 years old, a pair of gaiters, and part of a buckskin belt.

National Savings Christmas cards, for sending Savings stamps as gifts, are obtainable from Post Offices, Trustee Savings Banks, and Savings Centres. There are three designs.

**CHAMPION PEALERS.** The Lincoln Cathedral Ringers have rung a peal which they claim is a record. It lasted two hours and 54 minutes and consisted of 22 spliced surprise major methods.

Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester, will have a new spring dress next year; 1000 daffodils and 35,000 tulips will cover the flower beds with 34 shades of colour.

About 750,000 cases of grapefruit and oranges are coming to this country from Haifa, Jaffa, and Tel Aviv.

holidays, reveals that 16 European countries were represented there during the past year. Nearly 7000 guests have stayed at Our Chalet since it was opened in 1932.

Scout Struan Morris, aged 15, of the 1st Frocester Group, Gloucestershire, has been awarded the Silver Cross for an attempt to rescue a small girl under very hazardous circumstances at Orombe Cove, Exmouth, last August.

Sea Scout Dale Goffe and Peter Parking-Kennedy, who went to Norway to select the giant Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square, will switch on the tree's lights when the Mayor of Oslo makes the presentation on December 16.





### Air-Lift For Children

Aircraft that take food and supplies to Berlin are also used to evacuate German children. Here is a roll call before the children leave for the British and American Zones.

### LITTLE PACIFIC PARLIAMENT

ONE of the British Commonwealth's smallest and youngest parliaments is the Cook Islands Legislative Council, which has just held its second session.

Named after Captain James Cook, the Cook Islands have a population of only 15,000 brown-skinned people who live on a dozen scattered Pacific islands some 1600 miles to the north of New Zealand. Some of the members of this island parliament had to travel 700 miles to the main island of Rarotonga.

The language of the people of the Cook Islands is similar to that of the Maori people of New Zealand.

### The Book of Kells

FROM Trinity College, Dublin, comes the news that permission has been given to a Swiss firm of printers to print the famous 8th-century manuscript, the Book of Kells, in full colour. It has often been claimed that



the beautifully illuminated Book of Kells is the loveliest book in the world. It is a perfect example of the extreme care lavished on their work by the old artist-scribes, who would sometimes take weeks in the illumination of a single capital letter. Only through a magnifying glass can the intricate workmanship be fully appreciated.

### At the Sign of the Wherry

ONCE a familiar sight on the Norfolk Broads and rivers, the trading wherry has gone, doubtless for ever. Many are the older folk who regret its passing.

Outside the village inn at Geldeston, near the River Waveney, there has just been hung a new sign showing a wherry in all its loveliness. Parishioners are highly proud of it.

When the owners decided to renew the sign Mr Kenneth Metcalfe, a resident of the village, whose memories of days when wherries made their way to Geldeston are still bright, offered his assistance. He provided a photograph of a wherry taken on the river nearly some 40 years ago. From this picture a London artist has done the splendid painting which now graces the Wherry Inn.

### Botanist's Home For Agricultural Study

GLYNLIVON, a mansion in North Wales, is to become an agricultural college—a transformation which would have not displeased Thomas Glynn, who lived there in the reign of Charles I. He was a keen botanist, gardener, and agriculturist, and regularly sent specimens of wild flowers to Thomas Johnson, the famous London apothecary-botanist who lost his life in the Royalist cause, dying from a wound received while he was taking part in the defence of Basing House, Hampshire.

In 1639 Johnson and a party of apothecary friends went on a botanising exploration through the Midlands and North Wales and stayed for a time at Glynllivon. It seems most fitting that such a house should be used for agricultural study.

### HERE'S HEALTH TO THE PRINCE

AT St Ives in Cornwall they have a custom of celebrating a great national event by drinking from a silver loving cup 300 years old.

The cup was brought into the Guildhall Square the other day, filled to the brim with ginger wine, and a thousand children, all smiles, drank the health of the new-born Prince. But they did not sip from the cup itself as their ancestors were fond of doing. The wine was ladled into their mugs by the Mayor.

The cup, called the Bassett Peace Cup, was a legacy to the town from Sir Francis Bassett, who was Mayor of St Ives in 1640. Little is recorded of him, but he will always be remembered for obtaining the town's first charter from Charles I.

There is an unwritten law that every child born in St Ives can demand a drink from the loving cup once a year on Mayor-choosing day.

### FOR ACHIEVEMENT

THE power plant at Spandau, in the British Sector of Berlin, is being rebuilt. Six hundred workers are engaged, and when the station is completed it will make secure the electricity supply of the Western sector. The frame is now complete, and the other day, in accordance with German custom, a crown of flowers and ferns was raised to the highest part of the building.

A somewhat similar custom is still honoured in many parts of Britain, a Union Jack being used instead of a floral crown.

The raising of the crown at Spandau was accompanied by a brief ceremony. Now, again in accordance with custom, the crown will remain raised and will be visible to all until the building is finally completed, which is expected to be in November 1949.

### Allan Ramsay's House

RAMSAY LODGE (standing on the slopes of Edinburgh Castle) which has just been re-opened by the Commercial Bank of Scotland as a residential hostel and training centre, was built by Allan Ramsay, the Edinburgh wig-maker of the 18th century, who afterwards turned to bookselling and verse-writing. He was the author of the poem *The Gentle Shepherd*.

In its original form the building was an eight-sided villa, and for this reason was named by the wags of the period "Ramsay's goosepie." Many a jest had the poet to suffer on its account. Later, during the '45 Rebellion, Ramsay Lodge saw some action, for some of the Young Pretender's men were billeted there when they entered the city, and were driven out only at the cost of some hard fighting.

### POLISH CRAFTS

ALL the proceeds from the exhibition of Polish craftsmanship, being held at Messrs Heal's in London until Christmas Eve, will go to the reconstruction of Warsaw. The display includes a "palace carpet," with a large floral pattern, typical of the homes of the old landed gentry. There are also fine embroidered fabrics, dolls in attractive national costume, and delicately-patterned wooden bowls and plates made from ash, larch, and pine.

### How Are the Swallows Faring?

WE are apt to forget the swallows once they leave our shores, but they are now in South Africa. Writing from Graff Reinnet, Beaufort, Cape Province, Mr J. S. Taylor, an ornithologist employed by the South African Board of Agriculture, takes up their story. In midsummer, from December to February, the swallows are very active, but cold weather affects the birds adversely.

In Cape Province it is no unusual thing for the temperature to drop 40 to 50 degrees quite suddenly, and this plays havoc with the swallows, many of

which are found dead and dying. Though the temperature may be round about 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the birds are unable to stand the sudden chilling from the warm nineties.

In this country, where the swallows hatch out their young, the ranges of temperature are not so great as in South Africa, but nevertheless the least suspicion of a chill in the air sends the birds to other climes. The swallows are the first of the migratory birds to leave us in the autumn, and this may be due to their extraordinary sensitiveness to temperature changes.

### To Speed the Grain

THE Argentine Government have signed a contract for about £2,000,000 with a Stockport, Lancashire, engineering firm for the complete mechanical and electrical equipment of a 150,000-ton grain storage and shipping elevator at the port of Buenos Aires.

The largest elevator in the southern hemisphere, it will take grain from railway wagons at the rate of 2000 tons an hour, or load it in bulk into ships at the rate of 3000 tons an hour.

### AN ALUMINIUM BRIDGE

THE first bridge in the world to be built of aluminium alloy was opened recently at Sunderland by the Minister of Transport. The bridge must surely be the lightest metal bridge for its size in existence, for it weighs only 54 tons. Yet it spans a junction between two docks which is 90 feet wide, and it will carry both road traffic and a railway. It cost £85,000 to build.

At the opening ceremony there were several engineers from European countries who had come to examine this innovation in bridge building.

### GOLD COAST ALUMINIUM

THE precious yellow metal which gave the Gold Coast its name has yielded pride of place there to the less beautiful but more useful aluminium. Though deposits of bauxite (the chief ore of aluminium) were discovered in the Gold Coast on Mount Ejuanema as long ago as 1914, only in recent times have they been worked to any extent; and it is estimated by prospectors that the colony has reserves of 220 million tons of bauxite—more than any other country in the world except Hungary.

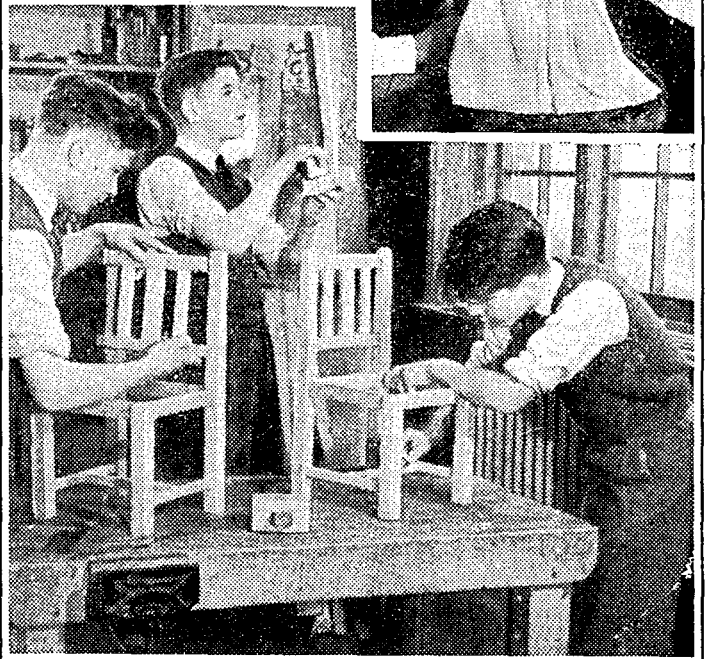
Until 1940, Britain's chief source of bauxite supplies was France, but when these became no longer available the Gold Coast deposits were opened up.

The bauxite ore is extracted in open-cast workings and taken by a recently-constructed railway to the coast, where a belt-conveyor system loads it on ships which carry it away to be refined elsewhere.

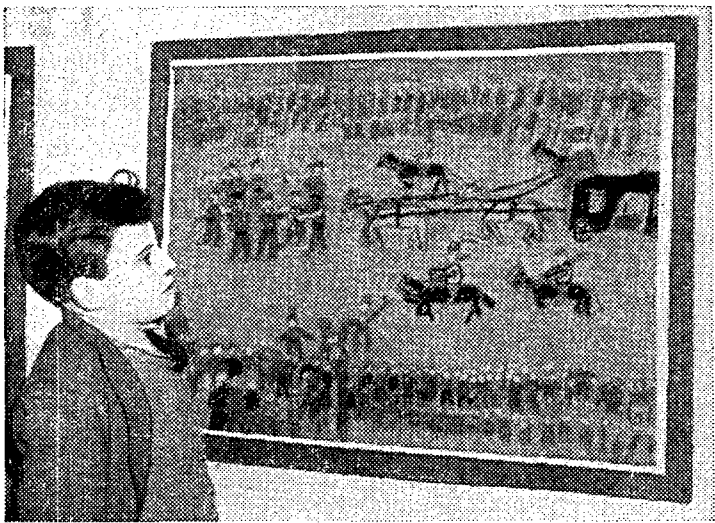
Large supplies of electric power would be required for extracting the aluminium on the spot, and a scheme of constructing a barrage on the River Volta to obtain power from its waters is already before the Gold Coast Legislative Council.

### For the Baby Prince

These boys and girls are making presents for the baby prince. The boys in the lower picture, pupils of the Russell School, Addington, are making oak furniture for the nursery. The picture on the right shows the first dress the little prince will wear, made by one of the girls of the Russell School at Purley.







### Children's Art Exhibition

A young visitor to a London Schools exhibition of painting at the Whitechapel Art Gallery inspects *The Procession*, painted by nine-year-old David Williams of Bethnal Green.

## The Immovable Chemist

CLAUDE LOUIS BERTHOLLET, born 200 years ago this week, on December 9, 1748, came into a world in which France was about to be threatened on every side by enemies in Europe, by enemies on sea, where English warships were destroying her commerce and blockading her ports, and by a more deadly enemy within, namely, what was known and still is known as the Terror. But at his birth and in his boyhood these distant thunders were hardly yet heard.

### Choosing a Career

As the gifted son of well-to-do parents he was allowed to choose what he should be, and though he at first selected medicine he afterwards elected to become a chemist. It was a wise choice, and in that country of science which has no frontiers he became one of that limited company of French "francs-tireurs" which brought about a revolution in science by destroying the long-standing superstition of Phlogiston. Phlogiston (from the Greek, phlogistos—burnt) was a theory of combustion, by which bodies, such as coal, charcoal, oil, wood, and so on, contained a material substance alike in them all. A body when burning was supposed to be parting with its phlogiston. German in origin, it spread into Sweden, into France, and into Great Britain, where even Priestley and Cavendish agreed. But in France it came up against the immovable resistance of a group of chemists of whom Lavoisier was the leader, and Berthollet his chief of staff.

What they effected was to eliminate from chemistry all reference to phlogiston, and to

substitute gases for "phlogistical air" and other such terms. The names they coined for these gases, which strange though they seemed then are very familiar to us, were oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen!

Well, that is what Berthollet helped to do, as well as to clear up the fog about chemical change and chemical affinity, and to forward with Lavoisier the modern idea that exact measurement is the foundation of chemistry.

In person Berthollet was a friendly man. He could hold to his own opinion even if it conflicted with that of his admired leader, Lavoisier, and he was able to do so because none ever doubted his sincerity, honesty, and courage. It even impressed Robespierre and saved Berthollet from the guillotine during the Great Terror, when Lavoisier and other men of science were dispatched, the judge who pronounced sentence declaring that the Republic had no need of "savants."

### Friend of Napoleon

But when the tyranny was passed Berthollet, by his zeal, sagacity, and his skill in developing France's internal resources when nearly the whole world was her enemy, became an intimate friend of Napoleon.

The best tribute to the memory of Berthollet came from our own Sir Humphry Davy, who visited him when he was an old man. "When even the friend of Napoleon," Davy wrote, "he was always good, conciliatory and modest, frank and candid. He had no airs and many graces. In short, an amiable, friendly man."

## HISTORIC SCOTTISH HOUSE

It is possible that Andrew Lamb's House in Leith, near Edinburgh, where Mary Queen of Scots spent her first day on arriving from France in 1561, may soon be the home of a Scottish maritime museum.

This fine old house, thought to have been built about 1550, is one of the best examples of 16th-century architecture in Scotland. Some years ago it was found to have fallen into an alarming state of dilapidation, and it was bought and restored by the then Marquis of Bute. Even

after the long years of neglect it was found that the woodwork was almost as sound as when it was put in nearly four centuries ago. It was found, too, that previous alterations, especially to the windows, had seriously changed the 16th-century character of the building. However, a neighbouring house had windows which were perfect examples of the required period and these were used as models for the restoration. Now the house is largely as Mary Queen of Scots stepped into it.

## A PILGRIM'S GRATITUDE

RECENTLY, a South African, Mr Johannes van Rooyen, stood hatless and silent in an Edinburgh cemetery before the grave of a certain John Weir.

Nearly fifty years ago Mr van Rooyen was a baby living on a Transvaal farm. The South African War was on at the time and the order had been given to the British forces in the Transvaal for all farmhouses of the Boers to be burnt.

When the soldiers came to the van Rooyen farm, they were met on the steps by Mrs van Rooyen pleading for her baby, who was very ill with pneumonia. To remove the child to one of the camps being set up for women and children would be certain death in the middle of winter, she said.

The soldiers, however, were adamant. They had their orders and they must fire the farm. Then the British captain in command of the soldiers was told of the situation and immediately gave orders that the farm should be spared. Not content with that, he sent medicines and food to Mrs van Rooyen, posted a sentry at the farm with instructions to keep off intruders, and arranged for a doctor to visit the sick baby.

That British captain was the John Weir who now sleeps in the Edinburgh cemetery, and the former baby, Mr van Rooyen, has just completed a long pilgrimage from his native land to pay his last respects to the man who once saved his life.

## PORTRAIT OF THE PRINCESS

ONE of our readers, Angela Bacon, aged 12, has painted a picture, from her imagination, of Princess Elizabeth holding her baby and sent it to the Princess. Angela received a charming letter of thanks.

Angela, who is the daughter of the Revd E. Basil Bacon, Congregational Minister at Doncaster, is a promising artist, and has been awarded the Bronze Star for two years in succession by the Royal Drawing Society.

### On the Stairs



An ingenious arrangement of three small wheels at the rear enables this perambulator to be pushed down stairs and steps with ease.

## The Editor's Table

### IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE

Too many people are inclined today to think of what they can get rather than of what they can give. That is the opinion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, who sees in the excessive self-interest of modern democracy a danger to the survival of the democratic ideal which is built on a regard for the interests of the whole community and of the other man.

Just "to get a bit more or do a bit less" is the aim of many in our own country, says Sir Stafford, and undoubtedly there is a growth of selfishness, in public and private life, deplorable among a people whose moral standards are normally high. Moreover, it is accompanied by a growth of stealing, and a general disregard for the law which is causing deep alarm among the leaders of the nation. "The old-fashioned virtues of honesty and truthfulness are vanishing," said the Archbishop of York in a recent House of Lords debate on the crime wave.

To steal half an hour or half a day from productive work is a blow at national life, and it is also a blow at the dignity and honour of the individual. To pilfer goods on the railways or elsewhere may seem a clever dodge—when it is done without detection—but it betrays a sad lowering of standards of self-respect and honesty.

All these things reflect a wrong attitude towards life, a concern for getting and not giving, a complete disregard of the high principle of service before self.

ALL true Christians have a vision of a world in which men are truly brethren not only in speech but in deed, lifting the fallen, caring for the unfortunate, remembering at all times the welfare of the other man. If we lose that vision, if we no longer try to keep faithful to the Christian doctrine that it is more blessed to give than to receive, then we shall no longer be entitled to call ourselves a Christian people.

### The Poet Cowper

YE who with warmth the public triumph feel  
Of talents dignified by sacred zeal,  
Here, to devotion's bard devoutly just,  
Pay your fond tribute due to Cowper's dust!  
England, exulting in his spotless fame,  
Ranks with her dearest sons his favourite name.  
Sense, fancy, wit, suffice not all to raise  
So clear a title to affection's praise:  
His highest honours to the heart belong;  
His virtues formed the magic of his song.

William Hayley

## The Core of the Problem

NOT long ago the Minister of Education said: "No one realises better than I do that the most important thing we have to do in the whole field of education is to provide for smaller classes."

There Mr Tomlinson went to the very core of our educational problem today. Learning depends largely on receiving individual help from the teacher, and when a teacher has 40 or more pupils in a class it is a physical impossibility for him to attend to all their individual problems. Many boys and girls, through no fault of their own, are slower to learn than others; we cannot all be "quick in the uptake." In a large class the slow ones—after the sure ones—are inevitably left behind.

It was therefore encouraging to hear Mr Tomlinson say that in the past three and a half years classes of over 40 children have been reduced by 8000. But, he continued, "Don't think I am satisfied with something like 37,000 classes larger than 40."

## A PRESENT FROM NIGERIA

THAT our fellow citizens in Nigeria are animal-lover like ourselves is shown by the story of the young giraffe which recently arrived at the Scottish National Zoological Park, a present from the Emir of Katsina, in northern Nigeria.

Last March, when the giraffe was a baby only about a week old, a forest guard found it lost in the bush, apparently abandoned by its mother. He felt sorry for the bewildered young creature and took it to the house of the Emir of Katsina, where it was brought up by hand.

It became very tame and the Emir thought of his friends in Scotland, and offered them the pet giraffe.

His thought and his gift are a pleasing demonstration of how relationships between ourselves and the peoples of the Colonies are ever growing stronger.

## Under the Tree



PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO KNOW

If a Rugby player's motto should be try, try again

A FOREIGN visitor said that London traffic made an impression on him. He should have got out of its way.

A BABY of six months has learned to float. The kind of child that will get to the top.

A LADY flat-dweller says she always walks upstairs and never takes the lift. It would be heavy to carry.

PEOPLE with low incomes will be able to have free lawnmowers. Without clothing coupons.



**THINGS SAID**  
This church is the only building that Britons and Germans can use for precisely the same purpose—to express their common submission to the authority of God.

*The Archbishop of Canterbury, at Münster Kirche, Herford*

WITHIN our grasp, within the soil of the Colonial Empire, are mineral wealth and agricultural riches for which the world vies out. Better food, clothing, health, and education are the prizes for all concerned in Empire productivity.

*Lord Balfour of Inchrye*

AM confident that by 1952 British agriculture will be producing 50 per cent more than pre-war, and I think this rate can be sustained indefinitely.

*The Minister of Agriculture*

BRITAIN will be on her feet again by 1952, because employers and workers both realise the necessity for hard work and more production, plus quality.

*H. F. Gurney, British Trade Commissioner in Australia*

### Better Milk

It is good news that the Government intend, during the next five years, to raise to the highest standard of purity the milk the nation drinks. A Bill for this purpose has been introduced in the House of Lords.

Milk is a wonderful food, especially for young people, but there has been a danger of people becoming infected by bovine tuberculosis through drinking impure milk. At present 70 per cent of all milk sold is considered to be safe, and of the milk supplied to schoolchildren 98 per cent is regarded as free from infection. This does not mean, of course, that 30 per cent of the milk sold contains T B germs, but it does mean that it is under suspicion.

It is essential that the 30 per cent and the two per cent of school milk which are doubtful should be rendered safe.

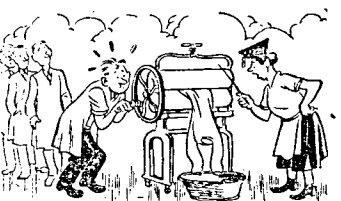
### Editor's Table

*MEN'S shoes have been reduced. Probably won't fit now.*

ATTEMPTS are being made to abolish night baking. Why not night freezing?

SIXTEEN million tins of salmon are coming from Russia. There is an opening for them.

RAF candidates are to have gliding as a major part of their training. But they can't all be majors.



CO-OPERATIVE laundries want to start a training school for key workers. Students will take turns.

### Beyond the Dreams of Jules Verne

IN 1872 Jules Verne's readers were thrilled by his new yarn, Round the World in 80 Days, the story of a calm, quiet Englishman, Mr Phileas Fogg, who, for a wager, undertook to go round the world in 80 days, using the ordinary train and steamer services.

The exciting yarn made our great-grandfathers think what a small world theirs had become. Now ours has become, in the same sense, smaller still; for a 1948 Phileas Fogg—this time a Danish journalist named Leif Hendil—has travelled round the world in seven days, using the ordinary air lines.

Starting from Kastrup aerodrome in Denmark, he flew via Amsterdam, Cairo, Basra, Karachi, Calcutta, Bangkok, Shanghai, Tokyo, Anchorage, Gander, Prestwick, and arrived back at Kastrup 6 days, 21 hours, and 15 minutes after leaving there. Only once did he sleep on the ground, and that was in Shanghai.

Mr Hendil has thus surpassed in actual fact the wildest dreams of the great futuristic romancer, Jules Verne.

### APPLES FOR TWELVE

*This moving little scene was witnessed the other day by a C N correspondent in Cornwall.*

ONE would hardly expect a dozen girls and boys to remain still when their father emptied a big basket of rosy-red apples in front of them on the kitchen floor; a wild scramble would surely follow.

But there was nothing like that in this Cornish farmhouse. No one stirred.

Presently, a tall, pale-faced girl began to move. Very slowly and without a word, she rose from her chair, limped almost painfully across the floor, and, stooping, made her choice. Then, limping back again, apples in her hands, she sat down.

She was the cripple of this big Cornish family, and as soon as she was seated the quiet scene gave place to a good-humoured rough-and-tumble among the other eleven children for the rest of the fruit.

### DECEMBER DAYS

Snow cherisheth the ground and anything sowed in it.

If the robin sings in the bush, Then the weather will be coarse:

If the robin sings on the barn, Then the weather will be warm.

A BRIGHT yellow sky at sunset presages wind: a pale yellow, wet.

SAY no ill of the year till it be past.

*Old-Time Sayings*

### WISE SPEAKING

BE humble and gentle in your conversation; and of few words, I charge you; but always pertinent when you speak.

*William Penn*



**Fluffy**  
This young lady with her fluffy hair has something in common with the Angora rabbit she is carrying.

### THE THREAD OF A SCREW

A CAMPAIGN that began 107 years ago was successfully completed the other day in Washington when representatives from Britain, Canada, and the United States, signed an agreement to standardise the ordinary screw thread on the American pattern.

It was in 1841 that Sir John Whitworth, a British engineer, made the first attempt to secure a uniformity of screws. At that time many various threads were in use, but he designed a screw with a 55-degree slope, and this was adopted in Britain and in many other countries. In 1864, however, an American, William Sellers, invented a screw with a 60-degree thread and America began to use that.

As more and more machinery was traded between the New World and the Old the disadvantages grew greater and the need for a standard screw more obvious. During the war, for example, it is estimated that the differing threads of Britain and America cost £25,000,000. But it was not until 1943 that any action was taken, and only after five years of conferences in London, Ottawa, and New York has agreement finally been reached.

It will still take some time for the British screws to be altered to the 60-degree slope, but the change-over will greatly help our export drive—and Britain and the US will draw far more than five degrees closer.

### Enemies of Dowzery

ONE of the reasons for the formation of the West Riding Trade Protection Association, which has just observed its centenary, was to combat "dowzery," a term that has now passed out of common use but formerly covered a number of dishonest trading methods. Taking advantage of a bankrupt's plight in securing his stock, tricks in "cheap jack" and "flying draper" trade, and all the bad business methods associated with traders "here today and gone tomorrow"—these were all dowzery.

This West Riding Association still deals annually with many thousands of inquiries; and its declared object is still "to combat the activities of swindlers and rogues." Richard Bissington was President in 1848 and his grandson Harry holds the same position today.

## They Wrote the Carols We All Sing

So ancient are some of our popular Christmas carols that no one knows who wrote them. No one has ever been able to trace the authors of The First Nowell, The Holly and the Ivy, or God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen; on the other hand, some that most people label "traditional" are really quite modern.

One of the loveliest of all carols, Silent Night, was written on Christmas Day 1818. On that day Franz Mohr, a German parish priest, read out a poem he had just composed to Franz Gruber, his church organist. Soon after Mohr had finished reading his friend showed him the musical notes he had jotted down and, without delay, they summoned their choir to rehearse the new composition. Now it has the distinction of being commemorated by a monument. This was raised in the Church of St Nikolaus, Obendorf, in Austria, and shows Pastor Mohr at a window in Heaven listening to an angel playing his hymn.

Even more modern is Good King Wenceslas, for although the melody was taken from an old Swedish hymn the words were not written until 1850. The Revd J. M. Neale, who also wrote Jerusalem the Golden, and was responsible for one-eighth of all the hymns in Hymns Ancient and Modern, was the author.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, easily the most popular of the 6500 hymns written by John Wesley's younger brother Charles, was first published in 1739. Few people, however, would recognise it under its original title. Wesley's first line was Hark! Now All the Welkin Rings, and the words we now sing (to Mendelssohn's music) were not substituted until later.

### FOR THE NEW NATIONAL THEATRE

A GOVERNMENT Bill published not long ago authorises a grant of £1,000,000 from the Treasury towards the cost of building Britain's new National Theatre, which is to be established on the south bank of the Thames between Waterloo and Hungerford bridges.

When it is completed—and this may be eight years hence—this theatre will contain a treasury of pictures, for Mr Somerset Maugham, the famous author, has presented to it his splendid collection of theatrical pictures.

Mr Maugham has made a hobby of collecting pictures of theatrical subjects for about 40

Another old favourite, Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn, is believed to be the only carol written as a Christmas present. It was the work of John Wainwright, organist at Manchester Collegiate Church until his death in 1768, and he wrote it for his daughter Dolly, who found it among her other gifts on Christmas morning in 1745.

The late Robert Bridges's Yattendon Hymnal was a distinguished contribution to modern hymn-writing, but not many Poets Laureate have used their talents in composing Christmas carols. The fame of one man who held the office, however, rests very largely on one that he wrote. Nahum Tate, who was a playwright in the days when few authors made money, and who died in the Mint, Southwark, while dodging his numerous creditors, is chiefly remembered for his ever-popular While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night.

Among the oldest of our carols is O Come, All Ye Faithful, for the words were written, it is believed, by St Bonaventura, a Franciscan monk, who died a cardinal in 1274. The words we sing were translated from the Latin last century by Canon Frederick Oakeley, and the tune was composed by John Reading, an 18th-century musician who was organist at Lincoln Cathedral.



**THIS ENGLAND** Low tide on the Thames at Chelsea Embankment



## HOMELESS IN PALESTINE

ANOTHER great refugee problem has arisen through events in Palestine, where three-quarters of a million people have fled from their homes.

One of the last acts of Count Bernadotte was to make an appeal for these unfortunates, the majority of whom are very old people or young children. More recently the United Nations set up an organisation to plan relief for 500,000 refugees. But within a few days it was announced that the number had risen to 766,000.

Efforts are now being made to raise a sterling refugee fund of £7,375,000, towards which Britain has subscribed £1,000,000. Australia has offered 1000 tons of wheat, and New Zealand 50,000 tons of potatoes.

### Daily Food Queues

Some idea of this human problem can be gauged from the situation in and around Amman, the Transjordan capital. Here, in addition to the normal population of 45,000, there are more than 80,000 refugees. Many of them camp in the Roman amphitheatre, and in schools, and there are enormous daily queues for bread, flour, and clothing. Transjordan has a responsibility for 200,000 other refugees in Palestine and the Lebanon, and their food is costing King Abdullah £8000 a day. Local efforts are made to raise the required money. The Transjordan Government has contributed £50,000, Saudi Arabia £20,000, and Amman residents £17,000.

The largest single group is of 200,000 in Eastern Palestine, of which 10,000 are in or around Jericho.

Syria has 100,000 refugees, a large number of whom are at the special Moslem camp at Dar al Mualimeen, near Damascus. Here conditions are rather better than elsewhere. Each refugee on arrival is given soap for a bath and the washing of clothes, and is seen by a doctor.

Only strong and generous action will bring hope into this modern situation of human suffering and insecurity, which is a result of man's inability to settle differences in a spirit of restraint.



THE STORY OF WILLIAM TELL IS POPULARLY BELIEVED TO BE TRUE, BUT MODERN SWISS HISTORIANS HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE WHOLE STORY IS A MYTH AND THAT HE DID NOT EXIST.

## FACT OF THE MATTER

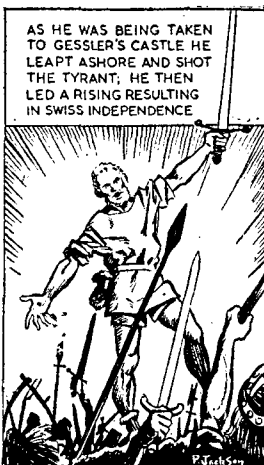
IS THE WILLIAM TELL STORY TRUE?



THE STORY TELLS HOW, IN 1307, GESSLER, THE DUKE OF AUSTRIA'S BAILIFF, SENTENCED TELL TO DEATH FOR NOT SHOWING DUE RESPECT TO THE DUKE'S HAT SET UP AT ALTDORF.



TELL ESCAPED EXECUTION BY SHOOTING AN APPLE FROM HIS SON'S HEAD, BUT, CONFESSING THAT A SECOND ARROW WAS KEPT IN RESERVE FOR THE BAILIFF, HE WAS ARRESTED.



AS HE WAS BEING TAKEN TO GESSLER'S CASTLE HE LEAPT ASHORE AND SHOT THE TYRANT; HE THEN LED A RISING RESULTING IN SWISS INDEPENDENCE

## BRER RABBIT AND THE REST

THIS week marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of a man whose writings are equally dear to youth on both sides of the Atlantic—Joel Chandler Harris, creator of Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, Brer Bear, and the rest of the lively brotherhood in the tales of Uncle Remus.

Joel Chandler Harris, born on December 8, 1848, at Eatonton, Georgia, worked his way up from a printing office to the editorship of an Atlanta newspaper, in which he began the delightful stories that appeared under his assumed name of Uncle Remus.

Published with many additions in book form, the stories seem in a way a counterpart of our own Alice in Wonderland, with her White Rabbit, March Hare, and the rest. But there is a sort of laughing sermon hidden in the Uncle Remus stories; all the tales are told by the old Negro slave, Uncle Remus, and in Brer Rabbit we see the skill and innocent cunning by which he, smallest and weakest of the entire company, gets the better of his more formidable rivals.

Brer Rabbit is the embodiment of the spirit of the old Negro slaves. Harris knew the Negroes well, and was familiar with the folklore that persisted with them ages after their forcible removal by slave-hunters from their native Africa. The stories won immortality by their humour, their kindness, and their merit as narratives recorded in deliciously quaint language.

### Here is Fancy Bred

SCHOOLBOYS and girls, and certainly their teachers, will be interested in a book of poems and pictures by the children of a Northern Ireland school. The book is called, *I Planted a Seed* (Forbes Robertson, 4s 6d).

The seed was 'planted' by a schoolmaster, Wilfred Bell, who believes that a child's eye perceives beauty in its rarest and truest form. He encouraged the boys and girls of the village school of Glyn, a beautiful corner of the country, to write poetry about and draw or paint pictures of the things they saw around them. The result is indeed impressive.

## Colonel Pride and His Purge of Parliament

IN its long and often stormy history the House of Commons has witnessed few incidents more dramatic than one which took place there exactly three centuries ago, on December 6, 1648—an incident known as Pride's Purge. This event was an important link in the tragic chain of events which led to the sad scene outside Whitehall Palace when Charles the First met his death on the scaffold.

On the day before the Purge, by a vote of 140 to 104, the more moderate members of Parliament had voted to re-open negotiations with the king, then a prisoner in the Isle of Wight. One of the most eloquent speakers on the king's behalf had been that

William Prynne who some years before had lost both ears for alleged sedition.

About this time, however, the Army and Oliver Cromwell arrived in London, pledged to bring Charles Stuart ("that Man of Blood") to account, a policy to which the moderate members and their desire to seek terms with the king were likely to prove an obstacle.

Accordingly, as Honourable Members arrived to take their seats on December 6 they were met by the serried ranks of the New Model Army, under the command of Colonel Pride, with orders to purge Parliament of all who wished still to parley with the faithless king.

Thomas Carlyle has described the scene in his vivid prose: "In Colonel Pride's hand is a written list of names . . . and at his side is my Lord Grey of Groby, who, as this Member after that comes up, whispers or beckons, 'He is one of them: he cannot enter!' And Pride gives the word, 'To the Queen's Court'; and Member after Member is marched thither, 41 of them this day; and kept there in a state bordering on rabidity, asking, By what Law?"

It was by the Law of Necessity, as Hugh Peters explained—that same Puritan divine who on the following Sunday preached a sermon in St Margaret's, Westminster, from the text "Bind your king with chains, and your nobles with fetters of iron."

The same procedure was followed the next day, by which time 143 Members had either been excluded or had found it wiser to stay away. Only a minority remained, some 80 Members, of the once-mighty Long Parliament, and this was derisively named the Rump.

Completely overawed by the Army, the Members who had escaped Pride's Purge went on to set up the High Court of Justice of the People of England which later sent the king to his death.

Thus did Colonel Pride, though not a particularly distinguished soldier, make his way into our history books.

## ALL ABOUT FOOTBALL

THE Football Association have scored a real winner. Realising, as Mr S. F. Rous says, the importance of a young player learning the game in the right way from the start, they have published a Book for Boys (Naldrett Press, 10s) with the prime purpose of helping boys to play better football.

It is no mere manual of instruction, however; it is a bumper book, packed with interesting articles and pictures. Here you can read about football from its earliest days—the Ancient Greeks played it with an outsize ball and called it *hepiskuros*—down to

the highly-organised sport that we know. Here you can learn how a match is televised; how to be a good goalkeeper, from none other than Frank Swift; how to keep fit, from no less an authority than Tom Whitaker; how to make the most of your kit; how to tackle.

All this and much more, including a great deal of fun, is here. Every boy who likes football will want to have this book for keeps; it will solve many a Christmas-present problem, and we feel sure many a lad will think it a good idea to get a copy for father!

## THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures



Alice decided it was foolish to cry about Tweedledum and Tweedledee's nonsense. "It's getting dark. Do you think it's going to rain?" she asked. Tweedledum spread a large umbrella over himself and his brother. "Not under here," he replied. "But it may rain outside?" said Alice. "It may if it likes," said Tweedledee. Suddenly Tweedledum pointed at a small white thing.



"Do you see that?" he cried angrily. Alice replied: "It's only a rattle." Tweedledum roared: "It's spoilt, of course!" Then, Alice remembered the old rhyme: *Tweedledum and Tweedledee Agreed to have a battle; For Tweedledum said Tweedledee Had spoiled his nice new rattle. Just then flew down a monstrous crow, As black as a tar-barrel; Which frightened both the heroes so, They quite forgot their quarrel.*



"My nice new RATTLE!" screamed Tweedledum. Tweedledee tried to fold up the umbrella, with himself in it. "Of course you agree to have a battle?" Tweedledum said. "I suppose so," the other sulkily replied, as he crawled out of the umbrella. "Only she must help us to dress up." They went off and returned with a pile of bolsters, blankets, hearth-rugs, table-cloths, dish-covers, and coal scuttles.



They asked her to fix these things on to them. "They'll look more like bundles of old clothes than anything else by the time they're ready," she thought, as she arranged a bolster round Tweedledee's neck "to keep his head from being cut off," as he said. "You know," he added very gravely, "it's one of the most serious things that can possibly happen to one in a battle—to get one's head cut off."

**What Will be the Outcome of this Strange Combat? See Next Week's Instalment**

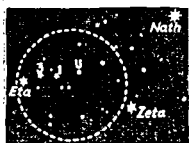


# The Twilight World

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE planet Uranus is approaching his nearest to us for this year and becoming well placed for observation in the evening, being high in the south-east after about 7 p.m.

This remote world may be found on the borders of the constellations of Taurus and Gemini, this locality being indicated in the star-map in the C.N. for November 27, which indicates the position of the bright star Nath. The present situation of Uranus is as shown in this week's star-map; Nath, Zeta in Taurus, and Eta in Gemini will be readily recognised, while the stars marked 3 and 1, appearing a little brighter than Uranus, form an easy guide to the planet, which is almost in line with them and is indicated by a U.



Uranus will be at his nearest to us on December 20, when he will be 1677 million miles away. He has been each year, for many years, approaching nearer to us as he came nearer to perihelion, the nearest point of his orbit to the Sun; so now he is larger and brighter—a little above sixth magnitude—and may be seen with the naked eye.

## Stars Round Uranus

A great many stars of fifth and sixth magnitude appear round the present position of Uranus, so it is advisable to use glasses. The broken circle on the star-map shows approximately the field of view of glasses and includes the stars down to the sixth magnitude.

If Uranus was as near to us as our Moon his great sphere would be nearly fifteen times wider than our Moon appears. It would be greenish in hue, and instead of the unchanging features of our yellow Moon we should see great belts of cloud crossing the disc of Uranus and travelling with the great speed of the planet's rotation, which amounts to 10½ hours, so about every five hours the scene would change. Moreover, cyclonic storm centres and occasional shadows of some of the five moons would also provide varying objects of interest, somewhat resembling those seen on Jupiter through great telescopes.

## Perpetual Twilight

As the intensity of the sunlight on Uranus is only 1-325th of that we receive on Earth, the surface of Uranus must be in perpetual twilight beneath those great cloud-belts. From this we see that, together with relatively intense cold, very different conditions must prevail on this remote world, which is 59-times the size of our own.

A drear picture these vast areas of Uranus must present, though there would be moonlight, for Uranus is now known to possess five moons. In addition to Ariel, Umbriel, Titania, and Oberon, another moon was discovered last February. Much smaller and fainter than the other satellites, it revolves in an orbit almost midway between that of Ariel and the surface of Uranus, and is thus the innermost satellite. All five of these moons would not provide nearly as much light for Uranus as does our Moon for us. G. F. M.

# OPERATION SOUTH PACIFIC

SEVEN hundred miles east of the Queensland coast of Australia lies the great French possession of New Caledonia, now chosen as the headquarters of the South Pacific Commission whose task is to improve the way of life of all the peoples of the non-self-governing territories of the six Powers in the South Pacific.

It was on a September morning in 1774 that Captain Cook sighted this great island (it is somewhat bigger than Wales) although he was by no means sure that it was an island. A few years earlier Bougainville had also noted that there was land in this region, but Cook was bold enough to put a boat out from the Endeavour and camp on the land for a few days. Noticing the long ranges of pine trees, and wishing to link the new land with Scotland, he called it New Caledonia.

## Captain Cook Was First

France and Britain were rival claimants for possession, but Cook cut Britain's name on a pine tree with the date of his arrival as a sign that he was first-comer. During the next fifty years navigators, traders, missionaries, runaway seamen, and convicts all visited New Caledonia, but no one wished to settle there permanently. The cannibalism of the islanders kept both French and British people from making their homes on the island. In 1850 the crew of a French ship were killed and eaten, and it was this disaster which led to the French taking possession in 1853.

A few years later New Caledonia's period as penal settlement began. France used it as a place of transportation in the same way as Britain had used parts of Australia, and many are the tales of horror and cruelty associated with those times. These evils ceased in 1894, however, and large numbers of people who had been taken there against their will chose to remain on the sunny, fruitful, and well-forested island.

Now Great Britain, France, the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Holland have set up joint headquarters in New Caledonia for a great project to better condi-

tions in all the southern Pacific islands. There they will direct a vast campaign to grow more food, train islanders in various trades, stimulate education by film and radio, spread modern agricultural knowledge, provide better communications, and generally improve the lot of the island peoples.

For the first time in all its colourful history, the Pacific is to have a staff of men and women whose mission will be to look after the peoples who dwell on the islands, and look after them as a whole.

On New Caledonia itself there are ranges of country highly suitable for cattle rearing and sheep breeding; other islands need the diet of fresh meat but cannot get it. The grasslands of New Caledonia which get an ample rainfall can produce more butter and cheese if there is a handy market; not far away are sandy coral atolls of the Pacific which need fresh dairy supplies. New Caledonia was at one time beginning to produce an excellent cane sugar, but the demand dwindled owing to lack of an organised market—and how much New Caledonia's sugar is needed today! Those are but a tiny fraction of the tasks that lie ahead for the South Pacific Commission.

## Palm-Lined Capital

Noumea, where the Commission's office will be, is a town of 12,000 people. It has a fine harbour. Coconut palms line the streets, and in the centre of the town is one of those big and gaily-coloured open-air markets to be seen all over the world wherever France rules. Soon it will be thronged by people of all the nations with interests in the Pacific.

# The Story of Christmas Seals

AMONG the millions of people who will help the campaign against tuberculosis by buying brightly-coloured seals to stick on their Christmas mail few know how this scheme started.

It began in 1903 when Einar Holboell, a Danish post-office clerk, wondered if the customers at his counter would express their Yuletide good wishes by purchasing specially-printed stamps in aid of a hospital for consumptive children in Copenhagen. Very soon his suggestion came to the ears of King Christian IX, who gave permission for a likeness of Queen Louise to be used on the stamps.

That Christmas more than four million letters and parcels posted in Denmark bore Holboell's seals, and a year later Sweden copied the idea. In 1906 Norway followed suit, and then, by chance, the scheme took root in the United States.

One of the Danish stamps took the fancy of Jacob Riis, a wealthy philanthropist, who suggested in a newspaper article that Americans should sell them too. Although doctors, nurses, and hospital officials were enthusiastic the idea did not appeal to the general public.

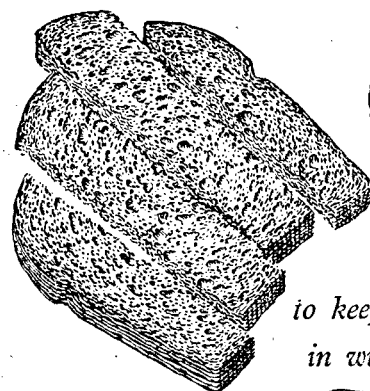
Then a Miss Bissell of the Delaware Red Cross Society, needed money quickly to save a

sanatorium from closing down, and she decided she could save it with Christmas seals. She eventually persuaded a printer to supply 50,000 and wait for payment until they were sold. The first stamp was put on sale at Wilmington on December 7, 1907, but no one was very interested. Then, luckily, the editor of the North American adopted the cause and promoted a campaign in his paper. Sales soared, and the Christmas seals in new designs were sold in ever-increasing numbers each December. The money raised has done wonders in helping associations engaged in fighting this disease.

Since 1933 seals have been sold by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, founded in 1899. Commonwealth countries joined in the annual campaigns; and, paper restrictions in Britain making production difficult, friends in Canada have since 1940 given us many millions of seals each year, no fewer than 40 million coming this year. The stamp this year shows a picture of a happy and healthy little boy looking at the Christmas stockings hanging from a chimney-piece above a Yule log fire.

Einar Holboell died in 1927, happy to have seen his brightly-coloured seals sold in 60 countries.

The children are eating more Hovis and honey . . .



to keep their strength up in winter weather

## Hovis

THE BETTER-BALANCED BREAD

Packet of 75 different stamps for 2½d. postage  
**KNOW THE WORLD THROUGH STAMPS**

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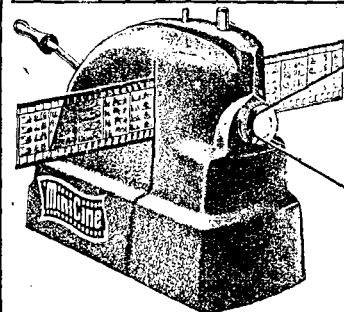
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Hillside, Whitegate, Northwich, Cheshire.

**ÆSOP-TO-DATE**



**THE KINGFISHER AND THE DUCK**

A duck was watching a Kingfisher hovering over a stream. "Why," he asked, "do you wait so long before diving after your prey? This river is full of little fish. Aren't they good enough for you?" "No, indeed," answered the Kingfisher. "I am prepared to wait until I am rewarded by seeing something worth my while. As for these little fish, they will keep. And anyway, they are getting bigger all the time."

To-day's  
**Moral to this Savings Fable is:**

Little sums of money put into Savings regularly soon grow up into a nice big amount. Then, when you see something worth your while in the shops, your waiting will bring this reward: you'll have enough money to buy it!

# NATIONAL SAVINGS STAMPS

Issued by the National Savings Committee.



## THE BRAN TUB

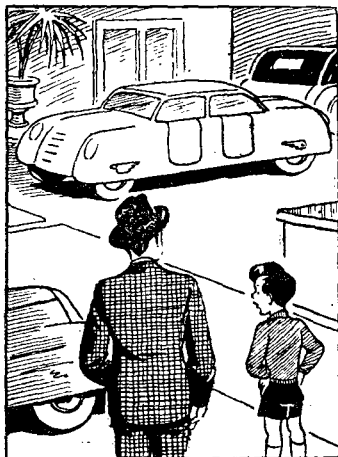
### HER ONLY ONES

MOTHER (to small daughter putting her shoes on):  
Now, Betty, you've put your shoes on the wrong feet.  
Betty: Oh, no, Mummie. I haven't got any other feet.

### A B C Poem

MANY poems have been written in which all the words in the first line begin with A, all the words in the second line with B, and so on. Here are a few lines from a good example:  
Achilles, angered, anxious, and aggrieved.  
Beheld Briseis, beauteous but bereaved,  
Conducted captive, cautiously dreading departure, desolate, dismayed.

### RODDY



"It's a lovely car, Daddy, but which way does it go?"

### BEDTIME CORNER

#### Alan's Good Deed

ALAN glanced out of the window as he heard the postman deliver a letter, and as the postman turned away Alan saw a letter drop from his satchel. He hurried to the door but the postman was gone.

He picked up the letter and saw that it was addressed to Mrs Jolly—and he hesitated. She only lived just along the road—but it was raining steadily.

"Lazy bones!" he muttered

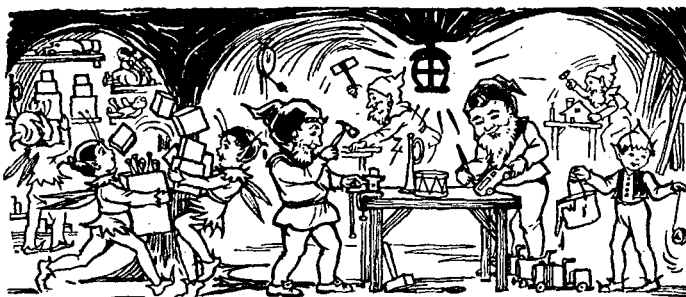
to himself, and telling Mummie where he was going he put on his Wellingtons and mac, and dashed off.

His friend Jack opened the door.

"You're in luck," he said. "My uncle has just returned from Africa and has brought his cine-films with him and is going to give us a show. You're just in time."

So Alan's good deed turned out to be a good deed for Alan as well as for Mrs Jolly.

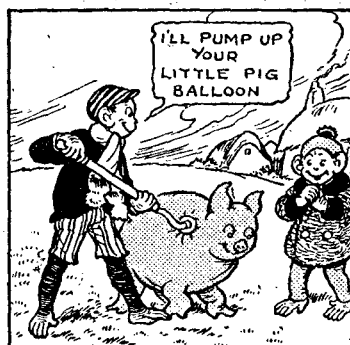
### SANTA'S TOY SHOP



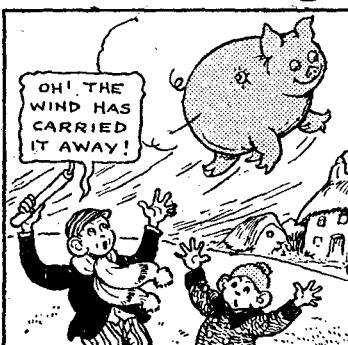
DEEP in the heart of the forest,  
Where the old hollow oak tree stands,  
I listened and heard the tapping  
From hundreds of busy hands.  
The Fairy Folk are all toiling,  
Pixies and Elves and Gnomes,  
Making the toys for Christmas  
That Santa Claus brings to our homes.

There, in an underground cavern,  
Dozens of nimble Elves  
Collect the toys that the Gnomes have made  
And stack them on to the shelves.  
Then, on the eve of Christmas,  
The Pixies will load the sleigh,  
And a cheer from hundreds of Fairy Folk  
Will send Santa Claus on his way.

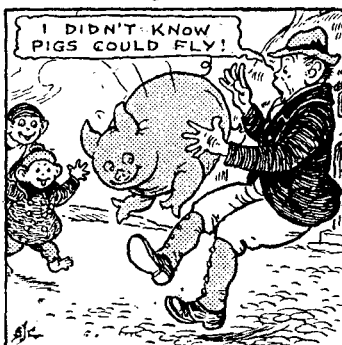
## Jacko Proves That Pigs Can Fly



"Porky" felt quite blown out when Jacko had finished with him.



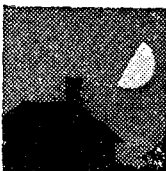
And quite blown away when the wind had finished with him.



And Farmer was "Fair blown over" when Porky had finished with him.

### Other Worlds

IN the evening Uranus is in the south-east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east and Saturn is in the south. The picture shows the Moon at 9.30 on Wednesday evening, December 8.



### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Crafty Rats. "A rat!" cried Don, seizing a stone and giving chase. First the rat dodged behind a tree. Then he took to the duck pond. As Don raised his arm to throw, Master Rat dived under-water, re-appearing in quite a different spot.

"Yes, rats are remarkably intelligent creatures," said Farmer Gray, hearing of the rat's successful retreat. "The hand of every man is turned against these pestilent rodents, yet, wherever man goes, rats follow and flourish. Their craft is assisted by chisel-edged teeth, which can gnaw through thick wood with ease. The damage they do is enormous."

### Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 8, to Tuesday, December 14.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 A Toytown Story. 5.30 How to Make Christmas Cards. N. Ireland, 5.30 I Want to be an Actor. North, 5.0 Children's Concert. Scottish, 5.0 A Grandpa Ginke Story; Christmas in Movieland; Songs: For Your Bookshelves; Arthur's Seat—a story; Scottish Tunes; Charles Dickens in Edinburgh.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Christopher Cobber (3). 5.15 The Box of Delights (3). North, 5.0 News from Belle Vue Zoo. Welsh, 5.30 Circus Folk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Biggles Flies North (3). Scottish, 5.0 Water from the Loch—a story; The Walton Singers; When I was Your Age (2); Sea Shanties; The Cow with the Klaxon Horn (2); Songs.

SATURDAY, 5.0 A Gummidge Family play; Choir of St Teresa's School, Effingham. Midland, 5.0 Midland Magazine; Santa Claus in New England. N. Ireland, 5.0 A First Aid Quiz. 5.30 Roger the Bog Pony—a story; Songs. North, 5.0 Quiz; Music; Books.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Walk with Wilfred. MONDAY, 5.0 On a Cattle Ranch (4). 5.15 Young Artists. 5.40 Film Review. Midland, 5.15 A programme by King Edward's School, Birmingham. North, 5.0 The Launching of Janet (6); Songs from the Shows. Welsh, 5.15 Young Artists.

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (15); Gramophone. 5.25 Nature Parliament. N. Ireland, 5.0 Osbert (4); A Story; News Talk; Songs; Piano Duets. North, 5.0 Mole's Castle (4); Music from Plays; Commonwealth Affairs.

The Children's Newspaper, December 11, 1943

### OUTLOOK UNSETTLED

Here is an old weather rhyme, obviously written by a pessimist.

THE south wind always brings wet weather;  
The north wind brings cold and wet together;  
The west wind always brings us rain;  
The east wind blows it back again.  
If the sun in red should set  
The next day surely will be wet;  
If the sun should set in grey  
The next will be a rainy day.

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Anagram.  
Mar, arm, ram.

LIP	DRAMA
ANAGRAM	N
ISLE	SPRY
RU	MAPLE
DRY	GREAT
EIDER	DE
USER	APER
RLANTERN	
NUDGE	ASS



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